
NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2008ARR0012-000689
May 2, 2008

Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

RENEWED RELATIONSHIP BENEFITS CLAYOQUOT SOUND

VICTORIA – The Province is providing \$700,000 to five Nuu-chah-nulth Central Region First Nations to renew an interim measures extension agreement (IMEA) that promotes collaborative management of Clayoquot Sound on Vancouver Island, Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation Minister Michael de Jong announced today.

“This agreement reflects this government’s commitments to lasting government-to-government relations with First Nations and to provide improved management over the land and natural resources in Clayoquot Sound,” said de Jong.

The funds support the operation of the Central Region Board, which is a joint provincial government and First Nations body. The board reviews resource development plans, applications, permits, reports or recommendations submitted for the Clayoquot Sound region, and provides input to government on any concerns or suggested changes to incorporate their priorities.

The first interim measures agreement was signed in 1994. Since 2001, the agreement has been renewed four times.

“The renewal of the IMEA is significant as it provides for the continuation of the Central Region Board, which is the place where the Ha’wiih (Chiefs) provides expression of self-governance through joint management,” said the B.C. Assembly of First Nations Regional Chief A-in-chut (Shawn Atleo). “The IMEA provides the region with operational consistency and an important clause to (re)negotiate an extension later in the year.”

“Another renewal of the IMEA brings more certainty to reach treaties for the Nuu-chah-nulth Central Region, as two of the five tribes took advantage of the IMEA in their favour to obtain a final agreement. We are very proud of this as a region,” said Central Region co-chair Elmer Frank. “The remaining three tribes are anxious to move forward based on our ongoing relationship with B.C. and are ready to enter into further negotiations on certain items that will create better futures for our nations.”

Toquaht and Ucluelet First Nations are members of the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council and recently negotiated the Maa-nulth Final Agreement, the first modern-day treaty for Vancouver Island. Hesquiaht, Ahousaht and Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations are also members of the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council, currently at stage four of the B.C. treaty process, negotiating an agreement-in-principle.

Through treaties and other agreements with First Nations, the Province is committed to closing the socio-economic gap that separates Aboriginal people from other British Columbians and to building a new relationship with First Nations based on respect, recognition and reconciliation.

To view a copy of the Interim Measures Extension Agreement, visit
<http://www.gov.bc.ca/arr/treaty/key/default.html> .

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